

**Claims:**

1. A portable user operated button-field electronic music controller including:
  - at least one finger actuated note identifier input button in a first zone actuated by at least one finger of a users first hand to generate at least one note identifier output used to create one or more musical notes, said at least one finger actuated note identifier input button arranged to be actuatable by each of at least one finger of said users first hand; and
  - at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device in a second zone actuated by said users thumb on said first hand to generate at least one effect identifier output used to modify said one or more musical notes;
  - wherein the arrangement of said first and second zones allows simultaneous operation of said at least one finger actuated note identifier input button and said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device.
2. A controller as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device is multi-variate.
3. A controller as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein, when playing any said finger actuated note identifier input button with said at least one finger of a given hand, any of said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input devices can be reached with the thumb of that hand.
4. A controller as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said at least one finger actuated note identifier input button further generates music effect values.
5. A controller as claimed in claim 4 wherein said music effect values include force, pressure and/or velocity sensitivity values.
6. A controller as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said effect identifier output include effect identifiers of MIDI or OSC such as, pitch bending, brightness, portamento time, and/or reverb depth.

7. A controller as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said thumb actuated effect identifier input device is a button, slider, dial, proximity sensor, joystick, or touch pad.

8. A portable user operated electronic music controller including:

at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in a first zone actuated by at least one finger of a users left hand to generate at least one note identifier output used to create one or more musical notes, said at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in said first zone arranged to be actuated by each of at least one finger of said users left hand; and

at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device in a second zone actuated by said users thumb on said left hand to generate at least one effect identifier output used to modify said one or more musical notes;

wherein the arrangement of said first and second zones allows simultaneous operation of said at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in said first zone and said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device in said second zone by said left hand of said user;

said controller further including:

at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in a third zone actuated by at least one finger of a users right hand to generate at least one note identifier output used to create one or more musical notes, said at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in said third zone arranged to be actuated by each of at least one finger of said user's right hand; and

at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device in a fourth zone actuated by said users thumb on said right hand to generate at least one effect identifier output used to modify said one or more musical notes;

wherein the arrangement of said third and fourth zones allows simultaneous operation of said at least one finger actuated note identifier input device in said third zone and said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device in said fourth zone by said right hand of said user;

9. A controller as claimed in Claim 8, in which said first and second zones are in a first portion and said third and fourth zones are in a second portion, and wherein said first and second portions are joined with a hinge.

10.A controller as claimed in claim 8 or 9 wherein said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input device is multi-variate.

11.A controller as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10 wherein, when playing any said finger actuated note identifier input device with said at least one finger of a given hand, any of said at least one thumb actuated effect identifier input devices can be reached with the thumb of that hand.

12.A controller as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein said at least one finger actuated note identifier input button further generates music effect values.

13.A controller as claimed in claim 12 wherein said music effect values include force, pressure and/or velocity sensitivity values.

14.A controller as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13 wherein said effect identifier output include effect identifiers of MIDI or OSC such as, pitch bending, brightness, portamento time, and/or reverb depth.

15.A controller as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 14 wherein said thumb actuated effect identifier input device is a button, slider, dial, proximity sensor, joystick, or touch pad.

16.A controller substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompany figures.